(d) whether Government propose to increase oil prices in view of increased oil pool deficit; and

(e) if not, how Government propose to manage the oil pool account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The estimated oil pool deficit, as on 31-3-2000 and 31-3-2001, was around Rs. 6256 crore and Rs. 12,600 crore respectively.

(c) to (e) The management of the oil pool account is a continuous process and the strategy to manage the same *inter alia* depends on various factors *viz.* the prevalent international prices of crude oil/petroleum products, exchange rate, duty structure, domestic selling prices of controlled products (motor spirit, high speed diesel, kerosene for public distribution and domestic LPG) etc.

No proposal to increase the prices of the controlled products is under consideration of the Government at present.

Cost of linking of Ganga and Cauvery rivers

279. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is the dream of Indians that Ganga and Cauvery rivers should be linked;

(b) if so, whether it is economically feasible; and

(c) what would be the approximate cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and the Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter-linkages among various Peninsular river (including Cauvery) and the Himalayan rivers (including Ganga) for transfer of water from water surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of water resources. The plan envisages 17 water transfer linkages under the Peninsular River Development Component and 14 water transfer linkages under the Himalayan Rivers Development Component. To follow it up, the Government

of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), an autonomous society, in July, 1982 to *inter-alia* carryout the water balance and feasibility studies of the National Perspective Plan. The NWDA have completed pre-feasibility of all the 31 linkages. To assess the techno-economic feasibility of the links, preparation of feasibility reports have been taken up for the links. The feasibility of 5 linkages under the Peninsular River Development Component have been completed. The preliminary tentative cost of the proposed identified links of the National Perspective Plan at 1995-96 price level is put at Rs. 3,30,000 crore.

Inter-State Meeting of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh on construction of feeder channels

280. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have convened an inter-State meeting of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh Government on August 17, 2001 to discuss the controversy of AP constructing two feeder channels near Tumkur;

(b) if so, what were the main topics discussed in the meeting;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Government had pointed out that the construction on one of the feeder channels has been stopped;

(d) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Central Water Commission convened an inter-State meeting of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh on October 15, 2001 to discuss follow up of decisions taken in the inter-State meeting held on February 21, 2000 and to discuss subsequent complaints of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh about violation of the 1892 Agreement, including construction of two feeder channels by Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The discussions on construction of feeder channel from Sidagappanakatte to P. Byadagere by Andhra Pradesh were deferred as Government of Karnataka have filed an original suit in the Supreme Court.